

VIRGINIA FIRE SERVICES BOARD

Burn Building Subcommittee

Thursday, January 8, 2015

A meeting of the Virginia Fire Services Board Burn Building Subcommittee was held at the Virginia Department of Fire Programs Headquarters in Glen Allen, VA at 10:00 am. Mr. Robert Miner served as Chair.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Robert Miner – Burn Building Subcommittee Chair - Virginia Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators

Walter T. Bailey – Chair - Virginia State Firefighter's

James 'Randy' Wheeler – Vice-Chair – Virginia Municipal League

Lee day –Virginia Fire Services Council

Bettie Reeves-Nobles – General Public

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Dawn Brown – Insurance Industry Representative

AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT

Christine Lopilato

Russ Chandler

Joe Thompson

Melvin Carter

Don Hansen

GUESTS PRESENT

Michael Matthews

Neal Turner

Gerald Pruden

Bill Street

Justin B. Adams

Evan Vass

Kenneth Slonaker

CHANGES IN THE AGENDA

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. No Unfinished Business

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Montgomery County Burn Building Application
- B. Shenandoah County Burn Building Application
- C. Chesterfield County Burn Building Application

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments made.

COMMENTS FROM THE SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR

Robert Miner thanked everyone for their attendance.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Topic: Montgomery County Burn Building Application

Motion: Motion to approve Montgomery County for up to \$480,000.00 for new construction of a Prototype 1, Class A Burn Building.

Topic Discussion: Montgomery wants to expand the current training property to include a burn building. The current facility is owned by Blacksburg Volunteer Fire Department. Montgomery County co-manages the property with a 20 year lease. Montgomery County stated that currently, the site has an intermodal box which contains a maze for training firefighters to search and rescue victims while also simulating confined space rescue.

The property has been modified and will be used for classroom instruction once the electrical, water and sewer system is complete. Thus far, there is a ladder training tower that has been installed. The parking area has and will be used for vehicle extrication to train rescue squads. In September 2014, Department of Forestry installed a dry hydrant for fire department members to be trained for proper usage. Certain initiatives have been taken to make it conducive for training. Montgomery added that Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads (VAVRS) has used the area to train. They would like to include a burn building facility to the property to further meet the needs of its stakeholders. Montgomery County is requesting the maximum allowable grant amount from the Burn Building Grant Program, \$480,000.00.

The Subcommittee expressed the issue with the elevation of the proposed training facility and its proximity to the adjacent privately owned land along with environmental impact regarding water-run off, soil erosions and smoke clearing.

The locality also has the matching \$150,000.00.

Randy Wheeler asked about the balance of the burn building fund, Christine Lopilato, VDFP Finance Director advised that as of November 30, 2014, there was adequate funding available to fund Montgomery's new construction project.

[Enclosure 1]

[Enclosure 1A]

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Action: To be presented at the full board meeting on February 20, 2015.

Topic: Shenandoah County Burn Building Application

Motion: Motion to recommend approving Shenandoah County's application as submitted for renovation up to \$79,150.00 which is reflective of square footage proration.

Topic Discussion: Shenandoah County is requesting \$121,716.75 for renovation of its current burn building. The building is 3,064 square feet, prototype I, Class A. Policy specification is 1,730 square feet – any approval will be restricted to the prorated square footage to the prototype specification ($1,730/3,064 = 56\%$). Award is restricted to $\$140,183 \times .56 = \$79,150$

The County wants to;

- Clean the building with the use of dry ice blasting to remove soot and debris
- Removal of existing fire panels on ceilings in existing room and replacement with new panels.
- Masonry work to include repairs as indicated on the drawing from the architect
- Installation of metal cap on top of the masonry wall at top of the building.
- Cleaning and painting of metal stair well inside of the burn building structure only.
- Case cracks on 3 floors and top of roof as indicated on the plans.
- Patch the areas with Sikadur Crack Fix
- Install one coat of Sika Top 107 to all floors and top of roof.
- Install one coat of Sika 122 Plus on top of roof and slope water toward perimeter scuppers.

[Enclosure 2]

[Enclosure 2A]

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Action: To be presented at the full board meeting on February 20, 2015.

Topic: Chesterfield County Burn Building Application

Motion: Motion to deny request for \$480,000 for new construction of fire training tower with Class B live fire training props.

Topic Discussion: Chesterfield County requested \$480,000 for new construction of fire training tower with Class B live fire training props

The subcommittee expressed the following concerns;

- Chesterfield already has two burn buildings (one Class A, one Class B) that collectively meet FFI and FFII training standards
- Approval of a second burn building in one jurisdiction could set a precedent that the VFSB cannot afford to sustain
- 6-Story tower doesn't conform to Burn Building Grant Program
- LP gas props could be eligible for funding under the RFSTG program.

The subcommittee pursued to deny but has encouraged the County to consider applying under RFSTG.

[Enclosure 3]

[Enclosure 3A]

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Action: To be presented at the full board meeting on February 20, 2015.

ADJOURNMENT

The subcommittee adjourned at 11:30am.

Clerk of the Committee

REVIEWED BY:



Christine Lopilato
Director of Finance

January 8, 2015
Date

Enclosures:

- 1. Montgomery County Burn Building Application - Enclosure 1 and Enclosure 1A**
- 2. Shenandoah County Burn Building Application- Enclosure 2 and Enclosure 2A**
- 3. Chesterfield County Burn Building Application- Enclosure 3 and Enclosure 3A**